

5 (6) A true and perfecte 4

Discourse of the ouerthrow of certaine
companies of Burgonions both horse & foot
men at Villefranche, a towne scituate on the
borders of Champagne, vpon the riuer of Meuze, be-
tweene Sunday at night & Munday morning being the 4.
day of August 1597. together with the certaine
number of how many are slaine and
taken prisoners.

Burgundians

Translated out of French into English,
By W.P.



LONDON,
Printed by E. Alde for Cuthbert Burbie, and
are to be solde at his shop vnder the
Royall Exchange.

Art and Perfected



...the ... of ...
... the ... of ...
... the ... of ...
... the ... of ...
... the ... of ...
... the ... of ...
... the ... of ...
... the ... of ...
... the ... of ...
... the ... of ...

Translated into French by
W. P.



LONDON
Printed by ... and ...
...
...
...



*A true and perfect discourse of the o-
uerthrow of certaine companies of Burgoi-
nions both horse and foote men, at Villefranche, a towne
situated on the borders of Champaigne, vpon the riuer of
Meuze, between Sunday at night & Munday morning be-
ing the 4. day of August, 1597. together with the
certaine number of how many
are slaine and taken
prisoners.*

IT is not in fewe but in many
places that the hatred and se-
cret enuy of the King of
Spaine doth dayly and hour-
ly shew itself against the coun-
try of France, or rather the
great desire he hath to possesse
the Crowne and Diadem
therof, as being the fairest peece of grounde in all
Europe: But God, that vntill this time, hath kept
and preserved the same, will still defende & main-
taine it: yea, & restore it, vnto the pristinate glory
and splendor therof: wherof he faileth not to put
vs still in comfort, by diuers and sundry effectes,
and those in many places, as now lately at Ville-
franche a small towne situate vpon the riuer of
Meuze

The ouerthrow

Meuze, between Aſchay and Dun, towne belonging to Monsieur de Corraine, and about ſeuene ſmall miles diſtant from the Towne of Sedan. This towne is verie little, and was in time paſt built by King Francis the firſt, in forme ſoure ſquare like a ſconce, ſeeming rather a ſmall forte to holde a court of Guard then a towne, which he cauſed to be made only to hinder the incurſions of the Burgonions into the Country of Champaigne. In the laſt Ciuil wars, it was taken by the Duke of Lorraine, & ſince that time by certain compoſition & agreement made, deliuered by againe vnto the King of France, the gouernor thereof at this preſent is one Monsieur de Tremelet a Gentleman of that Country, whoſe valor and fidelitie is much renowned, through the ſeruites by him done & accompliſhed for his Maieſtie, bearing his warres namely vnder the Regiment of Monsieur the Duc de Neuers. The Garrifon hee hath vnder him within the towne, is three companies of foot & one of horſe. The Burgonians (for ſo all that ſerue the King of Spaine in thoſe parts are called, namely thoſe of the Duchie of Luxemburg,) which of long time haue deſired to ſet ſeate in the country of Champaigne, wherein they make daily incurſions, adreſſing all their intents & ſorts againſt the townes ſituate on the riuer of Meuze; as Meziere, Seda, Mouzon, Villefranche, or rather Rocroy & Maubert fontaine, which are not far from them, as yet could neuer attaine vnto their purpoſe, through the diligent watch and prouident care, by the gouernors thereof dayly had & maintained.

tained. And perceiuing that by policie and
 armes they could not preuaile they thought to
 proue if treason would worke anie better effect:
 which likewise in y^e end returned vpon theſelues.
 Of late they haue ſil apined at Villefranche, as a
 moſt fit place for theſe entrance into Champaigne:
 & for the ſame cauſe addreſſed theſelues to certain
 ſoldiers of y^e garrifon, with manie Spaniſh pro-
 miſes to make them rich for euer, if they would de-
 liuer the towne into theſe hands. Thoſe ſoldiers
 ſeemed to priuie to theſe request, but imparted it to
 Mouſieur de Tremeleſt their Gouverneur: who con-
 ſidering what good might follow for the Kings
 ſeruiſe, together with the counſel of other Gouer-
 nors here him, commaunded thoſe ſoldiers that
 had intended to do him to go forward with Cap-
 taine Gaucher, (being the man on the Burgonians
 beſieged he laid the plot). This Gaucher is an ad-
 uenturous ſoldier, yet within theſe ten yeres that
 he hath vſed warres, hath bene his fortune to
 attaine to the reputation of a Captaine, & at this
 time ſerueth vnder the K. of ſpaine, although by
 birth either a Frenchman or a Loſtaine. On this
 commandement of Tremeleſts the ſoldiers agreed
 with Gaucher both of the time, howe & meanes,
 when and how they would deliuer the towne, re-
 ceiuing of him ſome readie money, with promiſe
 of more vpon the obtaining the ſame. The time
 appointed was vpon Sunday night being the 3.
 of Auguſt, and Monday morning folowing. In
 the meane time Mouſieur de Tremeleſt ſlept not,

The overthrow

but sent vnto the **Gouernors** of the towne about him for some of their soldiers to helpe in a case so needfull. Which Monsieur le Conte de grandpre, Monsieur de Rumefnil, and Monsieur De Estingue **Gouernors** of the towne of Mouzon, Maubert & sedan willingly agreed vnto, some lending him their owne persons, and some their soldiers. For Monsieur de Rumefnil an old yet valiant Gentleman, tooke the charge to lead the troopes of the neighbouring garrisons, and coming to sedan the 3. of August, departed in the Evening from thence towards Villefranche, sending certayne footmen into the towne, and ambushed with the rest of his foote and horse about halfe a mile off, on the same side where Gaucher and his troope must passe. The signe given by the souldiers of Villefranche vnto Gaucher, whereby hee should know when to enter the towne, was a cannon shot: & the like to Monsieur de Rumefnil to issue out of his Ambuscado. Now when the time drewe on that the thing must bee effected, euerie man prepared himselfe. Gaucher caused all his horsemen to alight a quarter of a mile from Villefranche, to conduct them vnto the Ditches, and from thence by the souldiers meanes into the towne. And Monsieur de Rumefnil prepared to charge them behind. To conclude, the signes were given, and all Gauchers men that entred the towne or the ditches, were slaine or sent flying into the ayre by certayne Instruments of wild fire made for the same purpose,

at Villefranche.

or drowned in the ditches. Mean while Gaucher that made hast to follow those that had entred the towne, was much amazed that he and his troops were charged behinde: and had it not been that one led his horse after him (whether it were done by policie or good fortune it is not knowen) hee had likewise staid behinde: but he got on horse backe, and saved himselfe by flying. At this overthrow there was slain to the number of 300 and 120. taken prisoners. All the Leaders and Capitaines except Gaucher were slaine, and all theyr horses taken: so that of betwene five or six hundred men that the said Gaucher brought thether, there escaped not above fiftie, which saved themselves by the favor of the night. A most happie overthrow for his Majesties service, being done without the losse of anie man: which will procure great peace, quietnes and meanes unto the Countrey to gather in their harvest with more securitie about the frontiers of Champagne. In this sort doo all the enemies both of God and the Countrey of France perish and decay: but such as love God and publike peace, are like the Sun when it is in greatest force.

FINIS.